GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3115
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017
Shortage of Water for Irrigation
Kaswan Shri Rahul

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers have to spent huge amount to get water for irrigation due to lowering ground water level in most areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat making the condition of farmers quit pitiable there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any action plan to provide assistance to these farmers and make them self reliant, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. As per Central Ground Water Board reports, ground water levels in various parts of the Country including Gujarat and Rajasthan are declining. On comparison of Pre-monsoon (April/May, 2016) water level data with the decadal average (2006-2015), it indicates that 64% of the wells in certain pockets of Gujarat and 58% of the wells in certain pockets of Rajasthan have registered decline in ground water level. Decreasing ground water levels may increase the investment by farmers for irrigation in some areas which are dependent on Ground water for irrigation.

(c): Although, no such self reliant mechanism is in place, yet many initiatives are being taken for water harvesting and Ground Water Recharge. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) addresses comprehensive irrigation development including efficient use of water for benefit of farming community. The Watershed Development activities under PMKSY specifically focus for water harvesting and water conservation. Besides, water conservation activities are taken up under MGNREGA and other Central/State supported programmes being implemented in country including Rajasthan and Gujarat.

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